[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

The following resolution was not moved :.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :

This Council recommends to the Government that revenue officers be completely divested of their magisterial functions.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution which is standing against the name of Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman has been already withdrawn. I will now call upon Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai to move his resolution.

Throwing open of all Schools to all Classes.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I beg to move the following resolution :—

This Council recommends to the Government that all schools be immediately thrown open to all subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja.

I do not think that any speech from me is necessary to commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House. The policy of the throwing open of all schools to all classes of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja was accepted by the Government many years ago. But at the time when the policy was laid down, there was some difficulty in throwing open all schools then existing on account of proximity of certain schools to temples or other religious institutions. Therefore it was then declared—I think it was during the time of Sir P. Rajagopalachari who was then the Dewan of the State—that steps would be taken to remove these schools from the places where they are situated and to throw them all open to all classes of His Highness' subjects. Though several years have now passed away—more than fifteen years have passed away—we still find that these schools have not been thrown open to all classes of His Highness' subjects. They are still preserved as caste-schools. I do not think that the time before the Government was not sufficient to enable them to make the necessary arrangements to remove them from the proximity of temples or other religious institutions and remove the complaint that they are not open to all classes, to whatever caste or creed they may belong.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : I want to know whether his resolution relates to all Government schools.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I want to know whether he includes special schools also. There are certain schools opened for Nambudiris and Malayala Brahmins.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : All Government schools.

PRESIDENT : Including special schools ?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : The special schools intended for the special benefit of Nambudiris and some other

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people were not present to my mind when this resolution was drafted. Of course, if there are special reasons for excluding other communities from those schools, I do not wish to include those schools in my resolution. But I wish to include all Government schools which are generally open to all classes of His Highness' subjects. Now, in regard to these schools the difficulty of admitting all classes of His Highness' subjects was discovered long ago and it is rather surprising to find that adequate steps have not been taken as yet to remove the disability attaching to these schools. I do not think that the number of such schools is very many. But that there should still exist a distinction or rather a disability in the case of certain classes of people for admission even to the few schools, is, I submit, a great grievance; and therefore, in order that no subject of His Highness might feel that he is by reason of his caste excluded from any educational institution in this State, I recommend to the Government that immediate steps be taken to remove the ban and throw open to them all the schools. I lay special stress upon the word 'immediately' because Government may say: "We have recognised the principle and we will take due steps for the purpose in due course." They declared the policy more than fifteen years ago and there was sufficient time within which to make the necessary arrangements. Therefore, no further time should be lost in throwing open these schools to all classes of His Highness' subjects. With these few observations I place the resolution before the House.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I have very great pleasure in seconding the Resolution. An instance of a school where the Pulaya community was not admitted was pointedly brought to the notice of Government during the last session of the Council by a question put by me. It was with reference to a school at Vechur and the answer given by the Government was that there were three other schools in Vechur *pakuthi*, that in all these schools Pulayas were admitted, and that there was abolutely no room for complaint because of the Pulaya community not having been admitted in that particular school. I asked another question during this sesssion and the answer has not yet been received. My information was that there was only one school in that particular *pakuthi* and that Pulayas are not admitted there. If it is so, it is a real grievance. I was also informed that the reason for the exclusion of Pulayas is not quite correct. The explanation alleged was that, because there was a temple adjoining, it was not possible to give admission to them. I understand that there is a public road very near the school, that this road is nearer to the temple than the school, and that Pulayas are allowed to pass along that road; if this is a fact, there is absolutely no objection in giving admission to Pulayas into that school. Another instance which I brought to the notice of Government was in regard to the school at Manjur. I understand that admission has been given in that school. So far as Pulayas are concerned there are instances where admission has not been granted to them. I believe other members have also asked questions in regard to the admission of Pulayas in certain schools. My submission is that all traces of distinction of caste

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[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

should be obliterated in this matter hereafter. With these observations I support the resolution.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Does that apply to Girls' Schools?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to support the motion put forward by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai. The motion is quite in keeping with the enlightened policy of His Highness the Maha Raja's Government. Travancore stands in the forefront in the matter of education. University is groping in the horizon. Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai could not have chosen a more opportune moment than this to bring this motion before the House. I therefore heartily support the motion.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I heartily support the sacred principle underlying this important motion. It indicates the solicitude on the part of the mover for the welfare and prosperity of a large section of His Highness' subjects. The motion embodies a request to remove a great barrier that has been placed against the progress of the depressed classes. If the information I have obtained is correct, I find the Government have, in the case of many schools, already wholly adopted this principle and that only a few schools remain yet to be thrown open to all subjects and they have not been thrown open only on the ground of their proximity to certain temples, that it has been the definite policy of the Government to throw open such schools to all alike and that even the few schools which remain yet to be thrown open will in the near future be shifted to places accessible to all subjects.

As matters stand at present, I feel bound to heartily thank the Government for everything already done in this direction and I sincerely hope the Government would remove the whole disability in the near future. Since it is found that on the ground of proximity to certain temples alone some schools have not been yet thrown open to all the subjects of His Highness, I think, the motion as it is worded is not quite acceptable and with a view to avoid all ambiguity and misunderstanding I suggest that the motion be thus worded *viz.*, "that all the schools which have not been thrown open to all the subjects of His Highness on the ground of proximity to certain temples be shifted to places accessible to all subjects."

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the resolution as it stands on the agenda paper is that this Council recommends to the Government that all schools be immediately thrown open to all subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. I understand Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai in the course of his speech said that his motion was that immediate steps be taken to throw open all schools to all subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. Now, that is not quite the same as on the printed paper. I may say at once that it is not possible to throw

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open all schools immediately. I can say, however, that immediate steps will be taken. I may say that steps are being taken towards throwing open all schools to all the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. I do not know whether Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai or anybody else has calculated the number of schools that remain inaccessible to certain of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. Out of something like 900 schools,—departmental, primary, and vernacular middle, —the total up to the present moment not open to all classes is only 25. Out of these 25, steps are actually being taken at the present moment to open five boys' and two girls' schools to these people. The Inspector of the Vernacular Schools is now at Ayakudi in connection with the matter of throwing open the Ayikudi school to these classes. It is stated—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Is Mr. Hodgson aware that in certain schools which are open to all classes of persons, Pulayas and other people are not admitted even now?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have heard that that is sometimes the case, and there have been some cases in which the headmasters have been taken to task for not admitting them to the classes. At the same time there are very many cases in which, when the schools are thrown open to these classes, they do not attend. They are afraid to go. I suppose they prefer to stay away. We cannot take the blame for that. (*Laughter.*) Out of these 25 schools, five boys' schools are about to be opened to them. Two girls' schools are now in the process of being thrown open. For that purpose, actual steps are being taken. Seven other boys' schools are under the consideration of Government. I am only awaiting the orders of Government to take steps with regard to them. In big places like Changanachery and Vaikam it is a very difficult matter now to carry out this highly desirable practice. We have long-standing schools there, situated in the heart of the town and conveniently situated for the population. In order to carry out this policy we must remove the schools in these places and put them up somewhere else and the cost would be very considerable. Nevertheless, with regard to those other schools, Government have taken the matter into consideration and only two days ago I saw in a letter that further arrangements would be considered. In the case of the eleven schools, no positive step has yet been taken; but it is our intention sooner or later to throw open all schools to all classes. I think, Sir, considering that, out of 900 schools, only eleven schools are not accessible, it cannot be said that the Government or the department have been indifferent in this matter. I might say that very great credit for throwing open the schools to a large number of these classes is due to my predecessor Dr. Bishop who received the thanks of the Travancore Government. I might say that in later years definite and positive steps have been taken for bringing about this consummation. About a year and a half back, local Dewan Peishkars with the local Assistant Inspectors and Inspectresses inspected every school which was not open to all classes of the community, and submitted a join-

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[President.]

report. From most of them we have received reports and the result will be that out of 25 schools 7 will be opened very shortly. Of the rest, the cases of 7 are under correspondence with the Government, there being only a balance of 11 with regard to which the difficulty of removing them elsewhere remains to be solved.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : May I know if these eleven school buildings may not be sold away with the premises and other buildings cannot be erected in suitable places ?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : That is what is being done at Ayikudi, and with the money so obtained it is proposed to erect the new building on a site adjoining the campshed. I consider it very suitable for the purpose. That is one way. But I think in view of the fact that these have narrowed down to merely 11 schools and on an assurance which I can give that it is the intention of Government to take steps to have all these schools thrown open at the earliest possible moment and in view of the fact that Mr. Parameswaran Pillai himself did not press that all such schools shall be immediately thown open I think he will withdraw his resolution.

Then with regard to Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's point, I might say that the school has actually been thrown open to all classes of people, and there is actually nothing to prevent them from attending the school regularly.

So I ask Mr. Parameswaran Pillai in the circumstances to withdraw the resolution in view of the assurance I have given him and in consideration of the fact that there is very little to be done and not to press his request that immediate action be taken.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : Sir, I was aware that there were only a very small number of schools which are left closed to certain sections of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. But the existence of even one such school will certainly justify my resolution, because to say that even a single school is not open to all classes is certainly a slur on the Government and this progressive State. Therefore, there should be no distinction especially in the matter of education, either of any caste, colour, or creed, and no subject of His Highness the Maha Raja should feel it as a grievance that his son or daughter was denied admission to any particular school on the score of his or her caste. Nevertheless, in spite of the assurances given by the Director of Public Instruction that immediate steps would be taken to throw open all schools to all classes of His Highness' subjects, I do not press this motion to a division.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I cannot exactly say, "immediate steps to throw all schools open" because it will take time but "immediate steps towards throwing them open."

PRESIDENT : I believe what you mean is : "Immediate steps will be taken *towards* the throwing open of the inaccessible schools, but immediate results cannot be promised."

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I will ask the House to permit Mr. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai to withdraw the resolution.

It was accordingly withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: We will now rise and meet again at 11-30 tomorrow.

The Council adjourned at 5-10 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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